

REMARKS

As stated in Advisory Action dated Dec. 1, 2004, Amendment B was not entered.

Claims 1-3, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Heilshov (U.S. Pat. 6,272,964.).

Claims 4-7, 9, and 10 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As per our discussion on Dec. 9, 2004, independent claims 1 and 8 are hereby amended to disclose that the longitudinal direction of the saw blade and the longitudinal direction of the blade support structure/stop block are the same. Support for this is found in the first paragraph of the Detailed Description, where the longitudinal direction is defined as “the direction along which the workpiece is pressed into the scroll saw blade.”

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to more clearly distinguish the applicant's invention from the cited prior art. The limitations of dependent claim 4 are added to claim 1. Therefore, allowance is requested for claim 1 because it contains all of the limitations of claim 4 of Amendment A. Claims 4 and 5 are hereby canceled. Claims 2,3,6, and 11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 7 is hereby amended by rewriting in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (all text of claim 1 from Amendment A is included) and any intervening claims. Claim 7 therefore meets the requirements specified by the Examiner in the September 15 Office Action and allowance is hereby requested.

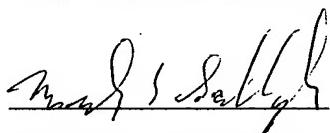
Independent claim 8 is hereby amended by adding all limitations of dependent claim 9 of Amendment A. Therefore, allowance for claim 8 is requested because it contains all of the limitations of claim 9 of Amendment A. Claim 9 is hereby canceled. Claim 10 depends on claim 8 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicant submits that all claims are allowable over the prior art, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 706.07(f) and 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very Respectfully Submitted,



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Certificate of Mailing: I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail on December 14, 2004 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date 14 DEC 2004
Inventor's Signature Michael E. Gallagher